

QUICK GUIDE: HOW TO START YOUR RESTAURANT IN ATLANTA

Thanks for setting up shop in Atlanta! We're glad to have you. This guide will walk you through the process of starting and running your restaurant.

ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

[Startup Atlanta](#)
[Invest Atlanta](#)
[What Georgia employers need to know](#)
[Small Business Administration Small Business & Self-Employed Tax Center](#)
[Small Business Incentives from the Georgia Department of Economic Development](#)
[Georgia Business Guide](#)
[Community Development & Finance Division of the Georgia Department of Community Affairs](#)
[Georgia Chamber of Commerce](#)
[IRS Small Business Tax Kit \(free PDF download\)](#)

CITY OF ATLANTA RESOURCES

[Office of Buildings](#)
[Office of Revenue](#)
[Department of Public Works](#)
[Department of Watershed Management](#)
[Atlanta Police Department](#)
[Fulton County Health Department](#)
[DeKalb County Health Department](#)

START

- Obtain an [employer identification number](#) (EIN) from the IRS
- Register your [business name](#) with the State of Georgia
- Register for your [FIN and wholesaler's registration number \(WRN\)](#) from the Georgia Department of Revenue
- Apply for a [business license](#) from the City of Atlanta
- Apply for [regulatory permits](#) from the City and/or State, if applicable
- Obtain any necessary [professional practitioner's licenses](#), if applicable
- Apply for a [sign permit](#)
- Register your security alarm with the City to prevent any [false alarm response fines](#)
- Apply for a food service permit from the [Fulton/DeKalb](#) County Health Department
- If you are serving alcohol, you will need an [alcohol license](#) from the Atlanta Police Department (note: these take up to 90 days to process, so please plan accordingly)
- If you're installing a [grease trap](#), you'll need a permit from the Department of Watershed Management - Site Development
- Submit your [building plans for review](#) by the Office of Buildings, if you're making changes or improvements to your location
- If you move locations, be sure to change the address on your business license. Details [here](#)
- Pay property taxes in your business's county ([Fulton](#) or [DeKalb](#))
- Be ready for commercial building inspections
- Restaurant building permits often require a plan review by [Atlanta Fire & Rescue](#), as well as the Fulton or DeKalb Health Department

SET-UP

- Schedule [trash pick-ups](#) for your business
- Get your business's water account [set up here](#)
- Set up your business's electricity through a provider serving your business's area: [Georgia Power](#), [Greystone Power Co.](#), [Sawnee FMC](#), [Georgia FMC](#), [Cobb FMC](#), [Jackson FMC](#)
- [Get a bike rack for your business](#)

FIND

- Obtain a [zoning verification letter](#) for your desired location
- Check on [financial incentives](#) attached to your desired location -- you may receive some extra cash!

PREPARE

- Estimate your [tax class and rates](#)
- Always be ready for a possible inspection from a regulatory permit compliance officer
- Make sure your employees have the proper licenses, if applicable



This guide is brought to you by the Office of Revenue in partnership with Startup Atlanta. For additional questions on the process, please contact the Office of Revenue at **404.330.6270** or [visit their website](#).